

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04297 190957Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 INR-07
PM-04 /050 W

-----004311 191006Z /13

R 190600Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8667

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4297

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SA, US
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY MESSAGE TO A U.S. MILITARY
TRAINING MISSION

REF: TREASURY 162320Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

1. USLO RIYADH INFORMED EMBASSY JUNE 17 OF RECEIPT IN RIYADH
OF TREASURY'S MESSAGE REFTEL. MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO U.S.
MILITARY TRAINING MISSION, RIYADH. (BEGIN TEXT) USMTM:
PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY -- COB EARLIEST A.M. TO MR. JOHN
HUMMON OR TED WAHL USREP JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION RIYADH.
QUOTE--TO: JOHN HUMMON OR TED WAHL USREP JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMISSION RIYADH. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM UNDER
SECRETARY SOLOMON TO FINANCE MINISTER ABALKHAIL ON A MOST URGENT
BASIS.

DEAR MR. MINISTER: I PERSONALLY WANT TO INFORM YOU THAT IN A
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION DURING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS TODAY,
I INADVERTENTLY CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING
HERE FOR SOME WEEKS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS OFFERED TO LEND \$2.5
BILLION TO PROPOSED WITTEVEEN FACILITY. I KNOW THAT AT THE TIME OF
THE OFFER YOU HAD WANTED TO AVOID PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF IT, AND I
REGRET VERY MUCH MY STATEMENT. SINCERELY, ANTHONY M. SOLOMON.
UNQUOTE. (END TEXT)

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2. USMTM MESSAGE CENTER PROVIDED COPY TO USLO RIYADH WHICH
SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED CHARGE. USLO NOTED THAT BUT FOR USMTM
ACTING ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, MESSAGE FROM TREASURY TO SAG
MIGHT NEVER HAVE THROUGH CHANNEL BEEN SEEN BY EMBASSY.
CHARGE INSTRUCTED USLO TO PASS MESSAGE PROMPTLY TO JECOR
FOR ACTION.

3. JOHN HUMMON DISCUSSED TREASURY'S MESSAGE WITH CHARGE
JUNE 18. HE WAS AWARE THAT A MESSAGE OF THIS SORT, TOUCHING AS
IT DID ON AN IMPORTANT MATTER OF FOREIGN FINANCIAL POLICY BETWEEN
U.S. AND SAUDI GOVERNMENTS, SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY DEPARTMENT
OF STATE, AND TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY FOR COMMENT OR RECOMMENDED
ACTION. HUMMON SAID HE HAD MADE THESE POINTS IN TELECON WITH
TREASURY, AND THAT MESSAGE MAY HAVE GONE OUT BECAUSE LOU BOWDEN
WAS AWAY AT THE TIME.

4. HUMMON AGREED THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF TREASURY'S
TRANSMISSION AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY MAKE CLEAR THE MATTER HAD
SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN COORDINATED IN-COUNTRY. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD
BE GLAD TO DO SO.

5. COMMENT: TREASURY'S USE OF USMTM'S COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITIES ALSO HELD MESSAGE UP FOR 8 HOURS OR MORE THAN WOULD
HAVE BEEN NECESSARY VIA NORMAL EMBASSY CHANNELS. A PHONE CALL
FROM THE TREASURY ON THIS MATTER REACHED A PUZZLED JECOR OFFICE
MANY HOURS AFTER TRANSMISSION FROM THE U.S. BUT QUITE A WHILE
ALSO BEFORE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED IN RIYADH.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING THIS MESSAGE TO ATTENTION OF
AMBASSADOR JOHN WEST.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA04297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-1252
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770642/aaaabkgo.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a762827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2101834
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY MESSAGE TO A U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION
TAGS: EAID, SA, US, TRSY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a762827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009